

December 2, 1988

TO: File

FROM: D. Wayne Hedberg, Reclamation Hydrologist *DWH*

RE: Field Inspection, Shivwits Gypsum Project, S/053/008,
Washington County, Utah

On December 1, 1988, Division staff members Wayne Hedberg, Holland Shepherd and Scott Johnson visited the location of the Shivwits Gypsum Project. Mr. Lanny L. Jensen is the operator of the Gypsum Quarry.

The mine site is accessed by following the highway leading northwest out of St. George to the Shivwits Junction. At Shivwits Junction the road forks; take the left fork for approximately 3/4 of a mile, at this point the highway is intercepted by the Motoqua Road. Follow this gravelled road northwest for approximately 3 1/2 miles, or until (a white smiling face) some graffiti on the red sandstone cliffs is noted to the right of the road. A white PVC post is located just off the left hand side of the road, indicating the turnoff to the mine site. The dirt road leading to the quarry site is a 1950's jeep trail which has been recently upgraded for approximately 1 mile. An additional 3/4 of a mile of new road has been constructed to the quarry site; the road averages 12 to 15 feet in width.

The mine site disturbance is a gypsum outcrop which is situated at the junction of two small ephemeral drainages which intersect at the base of the quarry site. Both drainages empty into a larger drainage course at this point. Mine site disturbance was estimated at approximately 3/4 of an acre. The gypsum outcrop has been drilled and blasted for bulk sampling. It was not immediately apparent that any topsoil material had been stripped and stockpiled. A small pad and loading area has been constructed at the base of the outcrop with residual material being pushed into the drainage to the right side of the quarry. This material currently obstructs this drainage. It is likely that significant erosion will occur during subsequent precipitation events and/or during spring snow melt.

Page 2
Field Inspection
Shivwits Gypsum Project
December 2, 1988

No mining activity was observed at the time of our field visit. There was no mining-related equipment left at the mine site. Only bulk sampling has been done at this mine site and the disturbance is well within the 5 acre criteria including access road construction. The operator will be notified of the Division's concerns regarding blockage of the ephemeral channel and the apparent lack of topsoil stockpiling.

jb

cc: Scott Spooner, BLM, Dixie Resource Area
Lowell Braxton
Minerals Team
MN2/28-29